

Intentional Damage

By: Wayne Staton, Golf Course Superintendent

I understand that golf is a game where sometimes the golf ball will not find the bottom of the cup. Why do others have to take out their frustration by slamming their putter to the green, or even worse, taking a divot out of a green?

While the frustrated golfer does not find the bottom of the cup, it does no good to take a divot or inflict damage by slamming a putter to the green. Everyone else playing behind this damaged area must deal with it. No one wants to putt over damage that an inconsiderate golfer has caused.

The golf course maintenance team will have to repair that area with a turf plug patch so all the others playing our golf course can enjoy a well struck putt rolling true into the cup. This takes the golf course maintenance team away from doing other important tasks. Golfers intentionally damaging the golf course will be escorted off the course with no refund and be excluded from returning!





So, I need your help. Like Smoke Bear says about forest fires, I will say “Only you can prevent green damage from knuckle heads!” I am asking you please help ALL of us that enjoy our golf course. If you see damage happening by other golfers, or even the wandering kids from the neighborhood, please speak up and say something. Tell any of our golf course team so we can handle it professionally. No need for you to be the bad guy, that is what our team here is for in this situation.

Everyone is potentially redeemable. Community service to the golf course fixing 2,000 ball marks and a letter of apology will reinstate your golf activities, maybe. Be warned golfers and any others that damage our course, we are watching. Don't be the one that causes all others to pay for your moment of rage damaging our greens or other areas! Help us keep our course in the best shape possible, please. Weather, and many other factors happen that we cannot control, yet this is one we can control.

Thank you again for any help with this and hope to see you on our golf course soon.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/63/issue-02/don-t-be-this-golfer.html>